**Military Magnet Academy Oral History Project**

**Mission Statement and Objective: 1) To provide Veterans and service personnel associated with the Military Magnet Academy High School a forum for recording their stories of service. 2) To strengthen the bridge of service between students and faculty at Military Magnet Academy High School. 3) To record for posterity significant elements of life and service that might otherwise be lost.**

Students are to create and present an Oral History Project that captures the story of an individual veteran or service member associated with Military Magnet Academy High School. Students will be assigned the role of interviewer, and will be responsible for conducting a recorded sit-down interview with a randomly assigned interviewee from the pool of volunteers. After each student is assigned an interviewee, he or she will be responsible for formulating the questions to be asked during the interview.

**The Interview**

The interview itself should last a minimum of 30 minutes, but may go longer.

**I. Interview Introduction**

Each interview should begin with a formal introduction that will include your name, your interviewee’s name, the date and location of the interview, and the reason for the interview (Military Magnet Academy Oral History Project Mission Statement and Objective).

**II. Background Information**

After the statement of purpose, the interviewee should ask the volunteer to please introduce him or herself and to provide some general background information, which should include any general information that the interviewee thinks may help provide a better overall impression of who he or she is:

*“Can you please tell us a little bit about your background, including when and where you served, and any general information that will help give a better overall impression of who you are?”*

**III. Question Prompts**

The following format is meant to provide a general structure for the interview. flexible guidelines rather than rules. In the actual interview, you may feel necessary to deviate from a planned line of questioning to chase a vignette or digression. That is fine, as long as you are always keeping in mind the Mission Statement and Objective of this project listed above.

During the interview, each of the following three categories should be addressed in some way or another.

**1. Service Record:** Ask open-ended questions in regard to each deployment until one strikes some memory or vein of discussion:

*“Tell me about Guam?” “You served at Guantanamo? Did you enjoy that?” –If they have served in combat, ask them about the experience, but be sensitive, respectful, and general: “What did you take away from your experience in Vietnam?”*

**2. Leadership Philosophy:** Ask the interviewee to describe their leadership philosophy and try to get them to describe some practical examples of this philosophy of action:

*“Can you describe your leadership philosophy and give an example of this philosophy in action? Without naming names, can you describe any examples of bad leadership you have seen? What do you look for in a leader? Did you have a mentor?*

*What qualities do you remember about him or her?”*

**3. Core Values:** Ask open-ended questions in regard to any values they hold or belief systems they adhere to and try to get them to describe examples of these values being honored or neglected in the real world:

*“What are your core values? What do they mean to you? Can you give any specific examples of these values in action? Can you point to an experience during which these values were neglected or abused? Why, in your opinion, are these values important?”*

**IV. Final Comments**

Before concluding the interview by thanking your interviewee, be sure to ask him or her if there is anything he or she wants to address in regard to any issue at all, or if there is anything he or she feels like they might have left unsaid that they want recorded:

*“Is there anything in general you would like to address further about anything we have discussed here today? Is there any message you would like to give or statement you would like to make about anything at all? Is there anything that you feel like you left unsaid that you would like to address?”*

**Written Assignment**

**Part 1: Blurb**

Each student will be responsible for composing a short blurb (at least 100 words) about their interview and their interviewee. The student will be responsible for posting this blurb along with the video to our class Wiki and to the MMA official website (via Ms. Greene).

Requirements:

MLA format

12-point font

1-inch margins all around

100 word minimum

**Part II: Reflection Paper**

Each student will be responsible for composing a reflection paper (at least 800 words) designed to consider the impact this interview process has had on his or her own life and on his or her general perspective. These papers will be submitted as a hard copy for a grade and should be posted in the Wiki under the Reflection Paper Page.

Requirements:

MLA format

12-point font

1-inch margins all around

800 word minimum